

## **DOCUMENT OF UNDERSTANDING/FEASIBILITY STUDY OF EXPANDING THE CAMERON SENIOR CENTER**

### **Charge of the Committee**

“The Board of Selectmen hereby establishes the Senior Center Needs Committee which will consist of 8 members, with the chair abstaining from all votes, (except in cases to break a tie.) Membership will be made up of two (2) members from the Council on Aging, a representative from the Board of Selectmen and Permanent Town Building Committee, the Director of Elder Service and 3 at-large members. The charge of the committee will be to conduct all necessary feasibility studies for the remodeling and/or expansion of the current site, (Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant St.) or siting of a new senior center and to facilitate construction thereof to meet the needs of seniors now and in the foreseeable future in consort with all other Town boards.”

### **Objectives**

The Committee hopes to determine whether the present site of the Senior Center is suitable for expansion or if another site should be located. Parcels A & B, shown on the McGlinchey map of 1991, which abut the present location were given over to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission in 1991 when the school was closed and transferred to the Council on Aging. The Conservation Commission was approached about considering a land swap. The COA would gain use of the land for expansion in exchange for other town owned parcels that would then be given to the Conservation Commission. The proposal went before Town Meeting in October 2005 under Article 14 and passed with the stipulation that the land swap would be pursued through the Legislature only if the feasibility study shows that the current site should be expanded.

To promote good neighborhood relations, a notice was sent to Forge Village neighbors to attend a meeting so that the Committee focus and objectives could be discussed and any questions and concerns that neighbors had could be addressed. This meeting was held on October 7, 2005.

At this public hearing, it was promised to the residents of Forge Village that the Committee would be ever mindful that the building is located in a densely populated neighborhood setting. The Committee promised that concerns of increased traffic and disruption will be included in the feasibility study. Residents will be kept informed of ongoing decisions and lines of communication will be kept open.

Currently the plan is that parcels A and B will be left as open space except for a small portion of Parcel B which will be used for additional parking. The new parking area ideally will have “pavers” to make the area look as natural as possible. It is the understanding of the committee that the chief neighborhood concern is the preservation

of open green space for passive recreation whether it be for the elderly (i.e.: life track) and/or residents. Traffic and excessive noise run a close second.

### Feasibility Study

The purpose of the feasibility study is to determine need and space requirements for present and future seniors. The results of this study will be used to determine if the present location is suitable for expansion/remodeling or if we should be looking elsewhere. According to the vote of Article 14 at the October 2005 Special Town Meeting, the study is to be conducted by the Permanent Town Building Committee.